

Procedure for Federal Visas

1. Federal U Visa Procedure

a. Under Federal law, non-U.S. citizens who have been victims of certain crimes are eligible to apply for a temporary visa allowing them to remain legally in the United States for up to four years.

b. To be eligible for the visa, the person must meet certain qualifications:

(1) They must have been victims of qualifying criminal activity, and as a result, suffered physical or mental abuse;

(2) They are in possession of information concerning the qualifying criminal activity;

(3) They are assisting law enforcement in the investigation or prosecution of the criminal activity; and

(4) The criminal activity violated U.S. law or occurred in the United States.

c. Part of the application process requires that the applicant obtain a letter of certification from a State or Local law enforcement official which demonstrates that the applicant “has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful” in the investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity. Officers are not authorized to sign U Visa Certification forms.

d. Requests for certification letters will be handled in the following manner:

(1) All requests or questions related to U VISAS will be forwarded to the International Affairs Unit (904) 630-0914 for initial review.

(2) The International Affairs Unit will review all requests by pulling appropriate reports, and contacting the investigating detective or patrol officer.

(3) The International Affairs Unit will review each request on an individual basis and forward its recommendation to the Sheriff or his designee for final approval.

For additional information, you may find it helpful to contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.